INDEX TO THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIRST SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935

Vol. I (Nos. 1 & 2); Vol. II (Nos. 1 to 10).

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THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 29th September 1937.

The House met at three of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. DR. U. RAMA RAO) in the Chair.

1.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Nutritive value of toddy and grounds for introducing total prohibition.

* 81 *Q.*—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have ascertained the food or nutritive value of the several kinds of toddy—palmyra, coconut, date, etc.—tapped in this Presidency;

(*b*) if so, what has been found on the food or nutritive value of the various kinds of toddy; and

(*c*) what grounds have led the Government to give effect to their total prohibition policy in Salem district against toddy?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"(*a*) & (*b*) There is a trace of substances that may be called food in these toddy varieties, but there is more nourishment in a handful of rice than in a pot of toddy. The amount of poison in the drink far exceeds the small trace of nutrition in it.

"(*c*) Grounds of public welfare, moral and economic."

MR. J. A. SALDANHA: "May I inquire from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact, from the experience of various classes of people, that toddy is found to be of nutritive value, by the labouring classes especially?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Nutrition is incomparably small, but the harm is incomparably great."

MR. J. A. SALDANHA:—"What about its stimulant value, Sir?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"A cup of honest hot water is much better." (Laughter.)

Adoption of Hindi as vernacular for Konkani-speaking pupils in South Kanara.

* 82 *Q.*—MR. J. A. SALDANHA:—Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Konkani is the spoken language of some people in South Kanara and if so, for how many; and

(*b*) whether Hindi, a sister language of Konkani is allowed to be adopted as a vernacular for Konkani-speaking pupils in schools in place of Kanarese?

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THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" (*a*) At the last census Konkani was found to be the mother tongue of 201,373 persons in the South Kanara district.

" (*b*) According to a modification in the S.S.L.C. Scheme made last year, Hindi can be offered as a language for the ' A ' Group subjects by a pupil whose mother tongue is not a recognized South Indian language."

MR. J. A. SALDANHA:—" Has not Hindi been made obligatory in the curricula of studies for certain forms—First, Second and Third Forms—in South Kanara district? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" Not yet, the hon. Member is running faster than he could."

MR. J. A. SALDANHA:—" Have not Government issued a communiqué for compulsory study of Hindi in certain classes? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" Not, so far as I am aware of."

Appointments of Bench Magistrates in South Kanara and the progress of their work.

* 83 *Q.*—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to place before the House a statement showing the names, communities, profession or occupation, status, age, qualifications and the date of appointment of the several Magistrates of the Benches of Magistrates in the South Kanara district and to state—

(*a*) how the work of the Benches has been reported upon as to the quantity and quality of the work done in 1936; and

(*b*) what measures have been proposed by the District Magistrate and are contemplated by the Government for curing the defects, if any, in the selection of the Magistrates and their work?

THE HON. MR. K. RAMAN MENON:—" The information available with Government is furnished in the statement [a] annexed.

" (*a*) Government have not yet received the report for the year 1936.

" (*b*) The District Magistrate has not made any proposals in this regard nor is any proposal under the consideration of Government. Government have, however, recently issued a circular to all District Magistrates that in selecting persons for appointment as Bench Magistrates the District Magistrate should consider not only applicants but also others whom he considers suitable for appointment and after ascertaining their willingness to accept the post, make recommendations to Government accordingly."

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 430–432 infra.